

Appl. No. 10/761,711
Amdt. dated January 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 17, 2004

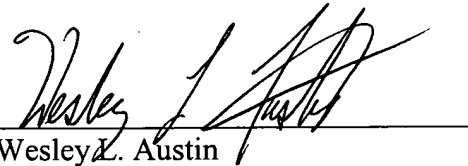
REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed December 17, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 13-16. The Examiner objected to claims 6, 8 and 18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 17, 19, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 13-16. Claims 6, 8 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to depend from claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claims 6, 8 and 18 and the rejection of claims 19 and 20 be withdrawn. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12 and 17 have been cancelled.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references, and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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